



Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Thomas W. Carr, Jr.
Fire Chief

Fire Chief Tom Carr of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service wants you to know that several serious fires, caused by candles, have occurred over the last year. Please review the ***Candle Safety Tips*** listed below. Taking action today may prevent tragedy tomorrow!

PLEASE: If power is lost, DO NOT use candles for lighting. Use a flashlight or other battery powered lighting!

If you must use candles, please follow the below safety tips:

- *Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep. Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as flammable decorations, clothing, books, paper, curtains, etc.
- *Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture, in sturdy holders that will not tip over.
- *Make sure candleholders are non-combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- *Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- *Keep wicks trimmed to ¼ inch, and extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of the holder.
- *Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- *Keep candles up high, out of reach, and where they can not be knocked over by children or pets.
- *Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- *Keep all matches and lighters up high and out of the sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

During power outages:

- *Flashlights and other lights generated by batteries are much safer light sources than candles.
- *Try to avoid carrying a lit candle and never use it to look for things.
- ***Never** use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.
- ***Remember: A candle is an open flame. It can easily ignite any combustible nearby!**

Always Remember! If a fire starts in your home **GET OUT** and call **911 IMMEDIATELY** closing the door to the room on fire as you go! **DO NOT DELAY** as fire doubles in size every minute!

“Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries”